

# A NEW EPIDENDRUM FROM MEXICO

BY  
OAKES AMES

THE SPECIES OF EPIDENDRUM described below is represented in my herbarium by a single specimen received on July 22, 1937, from Erik Östlund of Cuernavaca, Mexico. The notes accompanying this specimen indicate the existence in Mr. Östlund's garden of two distinct collections: one made in June 1935, in San Luis Potosi northwest of Tamasopo; the other made in the same region in November 1937, near Las Canoas. This is an extraordinarily beautiful Epidendrum and should be in general cultivation because of its horticultural merits. The specific name of this beautiful thing recalls to memory Mrs. Mary L. Östlund, whose deep interest in the orchids of Mexico found expression in her skilful and sympathetic care of the collection at Cuernavaca.

## **Epidendrum Mariae** *Ames sp. nov.*

§ Encyclium. Pseudobulbi caespitosi, anguste pyriformes, diphylli. Folia oblonga, utrinque angustata, apice acuta. Pedunculus elongatus, triflorus. Flores grandes. Sepala lateralia anguste oblonga, acuta, nervosa. Sepalum dorsale simile. Petala lineari-oblonga, acuta. Labellum leviter panduratum, apice bifidum; discus medio callo carinato ornatus. Columna simplex, exauriculata. Pollinia valde complanata.

Pseudobulbs caespitose, slenderly pyriform, about 4 cm. long, 11 mm. in diameter, finely and shallowly rugose, diphyllous at the summit. Leaves about 1 dm. long, up to 2 cm. wide, oblong, acute, olive-green. Peduncle 23 cm. long, with several scarious closely appressed sheathing bracts which are 4.5 cm. apart, each one nigro-annulate at the base. Flowers large for the genus, few



(one to three according to Östlund's notes), 1–3 cm. apart, near the upper end of the peduncle. Lateral sepals about 3.5 cm. long, about 7.5 mm. wide, greenish becoming brownish yellow, rather firm in texture, nervose when dry, narrowly oblong, acute. Dorsal sepal similar. Petals 3.7 cm. long, about 5 mm. wide, linear-oblong, acute, similar to the sepals in texture, greenish yellow. Labellum lightly pandurate, about 5.5 cm. long, 3.3 cm. wide near the deeply bilobed apex with the lobes 1.3 cm. long and 1.5 cm. wide, white with yellow-green nerves in the throat, the texture firm but membranaceous. Disc conspicuously unicarinate for one half its length along the middle with a raised nerve on each side of the keel which is white and much broader at the base than elsewhere, the basal part being strongly concave. Column about 2 cm. long, simple, free from the lip almost to the base, greenish near the base, white above the middle. Pollinia four, strongly complanate.

This remarkable species is in the alliance formed by *Epidendrum Ghiesbreghtianum* A. Rich. & Gal. and *E. hastatum* Lindl. From *E. Ghiesbreghtianum*, with which it is most closely allied, it differs in the structure of the labellum and in the much larger flowers with differently colored sepals and petals. The type possesses three flowers on the elongated peduncle, but in the notes sent to me by Mr. Östlund there is a reference to plants that produce a one-flowered inflorescence. In some of the specimens observed by Mr. Östlund the labellum attained a length of 7.5 cm. and a width of 4.8 cm., so that *E. Mariae* is one of the largest flowered species of the genus.

MEXICO, San Luis Potosi, region of Las Canoas in oak and cypress forest at 1000 meters altitude. November 27, 1935. *Erik Östlund 5103* (Collector O. Nagel). Flowering under cultivation at Colonia del Valle, D. F. June and July 1937. (TYPE in Herb. Ames No. 45825.)